

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 02489 291744Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01 CU-04
AID-05 PC-01 /071 W

-----024747 291749Z /43

O 291330Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6846

AIR FORCE ONE NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 2489

AIR FORCE ONE FOR TODMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), BR, US, PINS

SUBJECT: MARCH 28 STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS OCCUR PEACEFULLY

1. STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS MARKING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF A STUDENT DURING A DEMONSTRATION IN RIO DE JANEIRO IN 1968 WERE HELD IN MOST MAJOR BRAZILIAN CITIES ON MARCH 28. THE DEMONSTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA (UNB), WHICH WAS FILMED BY TELEVISION CREWS FROM FREOGIN NETOWRKS AS WELL AS ABC, NBC, AND CBS, INCLUDED STUDENT APPROVAL OF A DOCUMENT REPUDIATING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO BRAZIL AND ACCUSING HIM OF BEING THE PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE OF "IMPERIALISM WHICH, THROUGH MURDEROUS DICTATORSHIPS, HAS KILLED (PEOPLE) NOT ONLY IN BRAZIL BUT THROUGHOUT THE THIRD WORLD." IT ALSO ATTACKED "EXPLOITATION BY MULTINATIONALS" AND CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE, UNRESTRICTED AMENESTY FOR THOSE PUNISHED BY THE REVOLUTION AND "AN END
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 02489 291744Z

TO REPRESSION."

2. THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS WERE ATTENDED BY ABOUT TWO THOUSAND IN RIO, FIVE THOUSAND IN SAO PAULO BUT ONLY SEVERAL HUNDRED AT UNB, WERE HELD ON CAMPUSES AND, ALTHOUGH OBSERVED BY POLICE, WERE ALLOWED TO PROCEED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION OR INTERFERENCE. THE

ONLY INCIDENTS OF POLICE-STUDENT CLASHES OCCURRED IN BELO HORIZONTE WHERE, AFTER THE CLOSE OF A DEMONSTRATION ON THE GROUNDS OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, SOME THREE HUNDRED STUDENTS REPORTEDLY WERE DISPERSED BY POLICE WHILE ATTEMPTING TO STAGE A MARCH THROUGH CITY KTRTSTS; ACCORDING TO O GLOBO, ABOUT THIRTY STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED. ESTADO DE SAO PAULO REPORTED THAT SMALL EXPLOSION, RESULTING IN SEVERAL BROEKN WINDOWS, OCCURED AT ABOUT 2200 HOURS LAST NIGHT IN HALL OF ONE OF BUILDINGS OF THE LAW SCHOOL.

3. COMMENT: POLICE AND SECURITY FORCES RARELY INTERVENED IN STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS DURING 1977 SO LONG AS THEY REMAINED ON CAMPUS, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO YESTERDAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS WAS A CONTINUATION OF THIS POLICY. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN A YEAR, HOWEVER, RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS WERE NOT PROHIBITED FROM INCLUDING ITEMS ON THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS.
END COMMENT. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, POPULAR RESENTMENT, POLITICAL FREEDOM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRASIL02489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780136-0596
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780311/aaaaaixc.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7a9524b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3126723
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCH 28 STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS OCCUR PEACEFULLY
TAGS: OVIP, PINS, SOPN, PGOV, BR, US, UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE AIR FORCE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7a9524b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014